

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of developing devices each  
including a developer carrying member for carrying a  
5 developer to develop an electrostatic latent image  
formed on an image bearing member, and a developer  
regulating member for regulating the developer carried  
on said developer carrying member;  
common voltage applying means for applying a  
10 common voltage to said plurality of developer  
regulating members,  
wherein a first one of said developer  
carrying members is rotating, and a second one of said  
developer carrying members is not rotating, a  
15 potential difference between said second developer  
carrying member and said common voltage is smaller  
than a voltage difference between said first developer  
carrying member and said common voltage.
- 20 2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said  
image forming apparatus is selectively operable in a  
first image formation mode in which said first and  
second developer carrying members are rotated, and in  
a second image formation mode in which said first  
25 developer carrying member is rotated, and said second  
developer carrying member is not rotated.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein voltages applied to said developer carrying members are variable independently from each other.

5       4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least during operations of said plurality of developing devices, the voltages are applied to said developer carrying members, and said developer carrying members are supplied with common voltages by  
10      said voltage applying means.

15      5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are respectively variable in accordance with results of detections of densities of reference images formed using respective developer carrying members.

20      6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said second developer carrying member starts to rotate, said second developer carrying member is supplied with a voltage which is closer to a voltage opposite from a charge polarity of the developer than the voltage applied during the developing operation, before said second developer carrying member is  
25      supplied with a voltage which is to be applied during the developing operation.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when said second developer carrying member starts to rotate, said second developer carrying member is supplied with a voltage having a polarity which is opposite from a charge polarity of the developer,  
5 before said second developer carrying member is supplied with a voltage which is to be applied during the developing operation.

10 8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members corresponding to said developing devices, respectively, and said developer carrying members are contactable to associated ones of the image bearing  
15 members, respectively, and when said second developer carrying member is not in operation for developing action, said second developer carrying member is at rest, and said second developer carrying member is spaced away from the associated one of the image  
20 bearing members, and wherein when said second developer carrying member is in operation for developing action, said second developer carrying member is contacted to the associated one of the image bearing members.

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9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members

corresponding to said developing devices,  
respectively, and said developer carrying members are  
contactable to associated ones of the image bearing  
members, respectively, and when said second developer  
5 carrying member is not in operation for developing  
action, said second developer carrying member is at  
rest, and said second developer carrying member is  
spaced away from the associated one of the image  
bearing members, and wherein when said second  
10 developer carrying member is in operation for  
developing action, said second developer carrying  
member is supplied with a developing voltage, and then  
is contacted to the associated one of the image  
bearing members.

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10. An apparatus according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein  
said second developer carrying member is spaced away  
from the associated one of the image bearing members,  
the image bearing members is not rotated.

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11. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the  
variable voltages applied to said developer carrying  
members are DC voltages.

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12. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further  
comprising a plurality of image bearing members  
corresponding to said developer carrying members,

respectively.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein one  
of said developing devices is provided in a process  
5 cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of  
the image forming apparatus together with the image  
bearing member.

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